23rd April 1948]

that its first two requests cannot be complied with, and that in regard to procurement of building materials it can apply to the Registrar for assistance."

Alleged refusal to carry Harijan passengers by bus.

* 76 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: With reference to answer to question No. 210 answered on December 20, 1947, will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether the awaited report has been received and if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Prohibition):—"The Commissioner, Ootacamund Municipality, traced seven out of the nine signatories to the petition and forwarded to the Government their statements recorded by him together with his report. As the allegations were found to be substantially true a copy of his report together with the statements in original have been sent to the Central Road Traffic Board for taking suitable action against the company. The Board has been asked to report to the Government in due course the action taken. The Central Board's report is awaited."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"When the report has been sent to the Central Road Traffic Board, Sir, how long will it take for it to come to a decision in a matter of this type, especially when the facts are considered to be true?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The report was expected by 1st April 1948, Sir. It has not yet come."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB Bahadur:—"Was it ordered to be sent on 1st April 1948, Sir?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The report was asked to be submitted if possible by 1st April 1948. It has not yet come."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB Bahadur:—"Will the Government remind the Board, Sir?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is the usual Secretariat instruction, Sir, that when a reply is not received within 15 days a reminder ought to be sent."

Manufacture of power alcohol.

* 77 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the quantity of molasses available is in the sugar factories in the Province;

(*b*) whether these molasses are being utilized for preparing power alcohol and other by-products;

[23rd April 1948

(*c*) whether in view of the world oil shortage and the necessary cut in petrol rations even to essential users, the Government have considered the possibility of developing power alcohol industry; and

(*d*) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to encourage power alcohol industry?.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (*a*) About 20,000 tons per annum.

" (*b*) Molasses are not at present utilized in this Province, for the manufacture of power alcohol. But some sugar factories are manufacturing rectified spirit from molasses.

" (*c*) & (*d*) The matter is under examination."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Are the Government aware that the Central Government have passed an Act for dealing with this subject and under that Act this Government cannot move in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" The Government are aware of the passing of the Act and steps are being taken to see that power alcohol factories are established in this Province."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—" May I know how many factories have been allotted? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" The Government of India have allowed two factories for this Province. The Government of Madras feel that five factories are necessary and the Government of India have been addressed by the Madras Government suggesting that five factories may be allowed to be established in the Province of Madras. Reply is awaited from the Government of India."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—" Have the two factories been put into operation, Sir."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" The panel that was appointed by the Government considered it necessary only to establish factories all over India and they suggested that two might be allowed for Madras. We have been asking for five. That is the stage at which the matter is pending with the Government of India."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—" I wanted to know, Sir, whether two factories that were allotted have been put on their feet."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" As I have already said, Sir, it is not a question of allotment. Two factories were suggested for the Province and in my answer I have stated that there are now no plants for manufacturing power alcohol in this Province. A decision about the number of

23rd April 1948]

factories that are to be established in the Province is yet to be taken in view of the Act passed by the Central Legislature."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether these two factories are intended to be run by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No decision has been taken as to whether any or all the factories are to be run by Government or by private industrialists."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know which will be much cheaper, Sir, whether power alcohol or petrol from potatoes? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have not studied the economics of the manufacture of power alcohol from potatoes, Sir. If my hon. Friend puts a separate question I shall be able to furnish details."

[*Note.*—An asterksk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE *RE* SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

THE HON. DR T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, to-morrow there is an important function in which we as a Government are very much interested. We have moved and successfully moved for the establishment of a Leather Research Institute in this Province and the Hon. Mr. Shyam Prasad Mukherji, the Hon. Member in charge of Supplies in the Government of India is coming here to-morrow to lay the foundation stone at about half past eleven at Guindy. Members of Government feel that their presence at the function is not only necessary but will be indicative of their good-will with regard to the scheme that we are launching on behalf of the Province. Hon. Members of the House will also I expect get invitations in the course of the day. I suggest that they come and attend the function. In any case we as a Government have got to be there. Therefore I would suggest that we might meet at half past two to-morrow instead of at 11 o'clock."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the House has no objection. If necessary we can sit a little late to-morrow."

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS RE-ENACTING AND REPEALING (NO. I) BILL, 194 (L.A. BILL NO. 3 OF 1948).

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" On yesterday's point of order I am giving the following ruling. I request the House to permit me to do it sitting.

" When the Re-enacting and Repealing Bill (No. I) Bill 194 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1948) was taken up for consideration the following point of order was raised by the Opposition. 'The objection is that the present Bill seeks to enact at one stroke a bunch of nearly one hundred Acts which are about to expire, some to be re-enacted *in toto* and some others with certain modifications